

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Iran

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SUBJECT Tudeh Party Cell Meetings in Tehran

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1. The following account of the meetings of a Tudeh Party cell probably is typical of many. [REDACTED] that this particular cell consists of the following four regular members who ordinarily hold weekly meetings in Tehran, the exact location changing from week to week:

- a. Muhammad Ali Javadian - cell leader
- b. Ali Zangani
- c. Zekiullah Ibrahimi
- d. Ali Farakhian

2. This cell carries the designation, "No.2 (Mechanics)," all cells in Tehran being classified by trades. This results in other cells bearing the number 2, but with different trade classifications. Examples given of trade classifications are: barbers, waiters, droschky-drivers, bath attendants, and municipal workers. Of the four members of the mechanics' cell No.2, three are, in fact, qualified mechanics, Ibrahimi is one by trade (though a hawker by present occupation); the only non-mechanic is the cell leader, Javadian, who is a clerk.

3. The normal procedure for meeting adopted by this cell is as follows: The day before the meeting each member is notified of the time and place of the rendezvous. This notification may take place in a variety of ways. The cell leader may call at a member's house or at his place of work; he may leave a message with a certain café proprietor, or the arrangement may be effected by a meeting in the street. On the day of the meeting each member makes his own way to the appointed place at the appointed time, their times of arrival being staggered. As soon as the cell leader arrives, they decide on the location of the actual meeting, to which they then adjourn. During the course of the meeting, which is normally devoted for the most part to discussion of current events along the lines laid down by the Party press, no member is permitted to leave for any purpose whatsoever, this rule being designed to serve the interests of security. Any instructions conveyed at meetings are transmitted verbally. As soon as the meeting is over, all the members move off together to a dispersal point, habitually chosen to enable them to have a drink together before parting. At the end of one meeting no arrangements are ever made for the next one.

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4. [REDACTED] Javadian frequently hurries through cell meetings, saying that he must rush away to attend meetings of other cells run by him.
5. The No. 2 mechanics' cell held a meeting on 7 June 1950. Discussion turned on the recent assassination of Ahmad Deghan, responsibility for which was attributed to Razmara and the British Embassy, and on the projected murder of Dr. Mozaffar Baghai. The arguments followed the line already laid down in the special issue of Mardom devoted to the subject.
6. The next meeting took place on 22 June 1950. The subject for discussion this week was the oil concession, with the line already set out in the Party press again being followed. Ibrahimi, for instance, referred to the attitude adopted by the Opposition in the Majlis, declaring that this was no more than window-dressing, and that secretly the National Front deputies undoubtedly favored the new agreement.
7. On 29 June 1950 Javadian contacted the other members separately from one another and informed them that the next meeting would be held on the following day and that they were to gather outside his office at the bottom of the Khiaban Firdausi.
8. The first meeting in July was held on the evening of Thursday 6 July 1950. All four members gathered outside the brick-shop towards the bottom the Khiaban Firdausi on the left-hand side going down, the offices of the firm for which Javadian works. This was between 6:30 and 7 p.m. When all had arrived, they moved off together to the Sar-Ab-i-Karaj, near the race-track on the outskirts of town. Javadian led a discussion on the events in Korea, the main point he made being that the Americans were losing the war. Ibrahimi capped this with a few remarks on the future freedom of the Tudeh Party, which, he said, would follow the defeat of the American forces in Korea. Javadian also took the occasion to impress once more on all present the importance of personal security, stressing in particular the need to avoid divulging any Party matters to unauthorized persons. The meeting came to an end at about 8:15 p.m., when all dispersed and went their several ways.
9. The following week's meeting took place only 4 days later, on Monday evening, 10 July 1950. The location chosen this time was the Firdausi sweet-shop in the Khiaban Istanbul, where business could be combined with pleasure. The leading topic of conversation was again Korea, where it was reiterated that events were rapidly moving towards a Communist victory. From there conversation ranged back to Iran where events were held to be moving too slowly along the road towards revolution. About the new Government it was said, following the line already enunciated in the Party press, that Razmara had been placed in power by the British in order to secure the passage of the new oil agreement. The meeting broke up after one hour.
10. On Sunday, 16 July 1950, the 4 again met by appointment outside the brick-shop in the Khiaban Firdausi. This time, however, they did not go on to their meeting-place but arranged to meet again the following evening at a point near the Ford garage on the road leading out of Tehran towards Shimran, close to Javadian's house. This unusual procedure was adopted as a matter of convenience for Javadian, who had undergone a throat operation on the previous Thursday evening, the operation being performed free at the Russian Hospital. On the Monday evening they, therefore, duly met as arranged and conducted their meeting on the pavement in the shadows. Besides Korea, the other main topic of the evening was the Peace Campaign and the signing of the Peace Petition. Javadian also announced that at the next meeting he would have some entirely new instructions to communicate. He declined, however, to give any indication as to their nature.

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11. The cell held its next meeting on the following Monday, 24 July 1950. Members were notified on the previous day to assemble at Ibrahimi's in the Khiaban Istanbul at 7:30 p.m. From there they moved off to a point opposite the main electric power station. Subjects for discussion were Korea, where the defeat of American forces was predicted before the arrival of reinforcements; the AIOC Oil Concession, renewal of which would meeting strong opposition from the Tudeh Party; the Tudeh political prisoners, who would shortly be released; while still nearer home Razmara was heavily criticized for his recent action in clearing some of the hawkers and beggars off the streets of Tehran and for causing some of the brick-kilns on the edge of the town to be demolished. As for "the entirely new instructions," Javadian maintained the suspense by announcing that they were not yet ready. He again gave no indication as to what form they might take. Speculation has consequently sought to fill the gap, some junior Party members believing that they will be concerned with internal Party security, others that they will refer to a general state of preparedness.

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